

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] As alternatively shown in Figures 7 and 8 where like numerals, increased in alphanumeric sequence, are used to designate like structure, the bore housing 168a and 168b may taper inwardly toward the phosphatized coated terminal end 162 of the connecting rod 124. As shown in Figure 7, the bore housing 168a tapers in a substantially stepped manner, while the bore housing 168b shown in Figure 5 tapers in a substantially trapezoidal manner. However, those having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that shapes of the bore housings 168a and 168b shown in Figures 7 and 8 are intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. Accordingly, connecting rods 124 having bore housings of all shapes are intended to be within the scope of the present invention. ~~inwardly.~~